

## NO APPOINTMENTS FOR TAFT WORKERS

## President Writes Letter Denying the Charge and Explaining His Position

CALLS INSINUATIONS  
FALSE AND MALICIOUS

In Selecting Office-Holders He  
Declares He Has Always  
Chosen Men of Character  
and Standing, Placing  
Fitness Above

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9.—President Roosevelt to-day made answer to the recent public statement that he has made use of Federal patronage to further the presidential

The President begins by characterizing the charges as "false and malicious." He follows this with an analysis of all appointments sent by him to the Senate for its action.

show that in no case has the proximity of a presidential contest influenced his action. The President's letter to Mr. Foulke follows:

**'The Letter.'**

February 7, 1908.

The statement that I have used the offices in the effort to nominate a presidential candidate is both false and malicious. It is the usual imagination invention which flows from a desire to say something injurious. Remember that those now making this accusation were busily engaged two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices to secure my own re-nomination. It is the kind of accusation which for the next few months will be rife. This particular slander will be heard, will be believed and will

Since the present Congress assembled two months ago I have sent to the Senate the names of all the officers I have appointed for the entire period since Congress adjourned on the 4th of March last—that is, for eleven months. Excluding army and navy

officers, scientific experts, health officers and those of the revenue cutters service. I have made during this period about 1,352 appointments, subject to the confirmation by the Senate, 1,181 being postmasters. Of these appointments in the diplomatic and consular services and in the Indian service have been made without regard to political in the diplomatic and consular service.

**Independent Inquiries.**

In nominating judges I have treated politics as a wholly secondary consideration, and instead of relying solely upon the recommendation of either Senators or Congressmen, have always conducted independent inquiries myself personally, through members of the bench or the bar whom I happen to know, or through Attorney-Generals upon whom I have confidence. I was myself a judge; Secretary Root, because of his great experience at the bar, or Senator Knox, who was formerly my Attorney-General.

In a number of the other offices, especially assistant secretaries or heads of bureaus here at Washington, but also Governors of Territories or men holding peculiar positions—such, for instance, as that of Commissioner of Education in Porto Rico—and also in a few other cases, notably those of marshals of certain of the Western States, but including various offices

also here and there throughout the Union, I have either felt that the position was of such a character that the initiative in the choice could only with propriety come from me or from one of the Cabinet officers, or else have happened personally to know of the appointment of a man of such peculiar qualifications that I desired to appoint him.

There remain the great bulk of the offices, including almost all of the post offices, the collectorships of customs, the appraiserships, the land offices and the like, numbering some 1,250 or thereabouts.

It is, of course, out of the question for me personally to examine or have knowledge of such a multitude of appointments, and therefore as regards them I normally accept the suggestions of Senators and Congressmen, the elected representatives of the people.

ected representatives of the people in the localities concerned, always reserving to myself the right to insist upon the man's coming up to the required standard of character and capacity, and also reserving the right to nominate whomever I choose if for any reason I am satisfied that I am not receiving from Senator and Con-

not receiving from Senator and Congressman good advice, or if I happen personally to know some peculiarly fit man. Where the man has done well in office I prefer to reappoint him, and do so when I can get the consent of the Senators of his locality; but if the

refuse, the appointment can best be settled by consultation beforehand, the advice of the Senator or Congressman who is elected and has peculiar means of knowing the wishes of his constituents, being taken.

agreement, not as a matter of convenience and expediency, but as a matter of right on his part to nominate whomever he chooses, the custom necessarily discontinued.

**Independent Sources.**

In the South Atlantic and Gulf States, which have contained neither Senators nor Congressmen of my own party, I have been obliged to seek my advice from various sources. In these States I have appointed large number of Democrats; in certain States the

Democrats appointed outnumbering the Republicans. For advice in appointing